

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 03949 231330Z

44

ACTION EB-07

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P 231230Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9163

UNCLAS NAIROBI 3949

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, KE

SUBJ: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF (A) STATE 094266, (B) 75 NAIROBI A-58 (5/16/75)

1. THE RECORD SHOWS (REFAIR) THAT THIS POST HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO STIMULATE THE FORMATION OF A KENYAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. OBJECTIONS RAISED BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, FULLY SET FORTH IN REFAIR (COPY SENT TO US. CHAMBER, WASH.,D.C.) HAVE SO FAR BLOCKED REALIZATION.

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN KENYA REALY WANTS A CHAMBER, THEREFORE,WE SEE LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR INSISTENT UNILATERAL EFFORTS ON OUR PART WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED BY BUSINESSMEN AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE EMBASSY TO IMPOSE A CHAMBER. THE AMBASSADOR MOST RECENTLY "TESTED THE WATERS" IN NOVEMBER 1975 DURING HIS REGULAR MEETING WITH AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RESIDENCE. THE ATTITUDE CONTINUED TO BE THAT FOUNDING A KENYAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE. OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. CHAMBER MAY WISH TO VISIT KENYA AT A LATER DATE IF WE ARE ABLE TO REPORT A CLIMATE OF GREATER RECEPTIVITY AMONG THE BUSINESSMEN. AS IN PAST, WE WILL REPORT PERIODICALLY.

2. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NUMBER OF OTHER WAYS AND RELATIONS ARE EXTREMELY CORDIAL. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, AMBASSADOR REGULARLY MEETS WITH SOME 80 AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES EVERY SIX WEEKS AT RESIDENCE. FOR BETTER EXCHANGE,
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 03949 231330Z

GROUPE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS ON SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS.

ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IS SECRETARY TO AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB (ALSO DESCRIBED AT LENGTH IN REFAIR).
COMMERCIAL OFFICER HAS SOUGHT AND INTEGRATED SUGGESTIONS
OF AMERICAN BUSINESS AGENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR POST'S
VOLUNTARY COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL'S
RECOMMENDATION WE WILL MAKE EVEN GREATER AND MORE FORMAL
EFFORTS TO ELICIT INPUT FROM THESE BUSINESSMEN.
MARSHALL

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